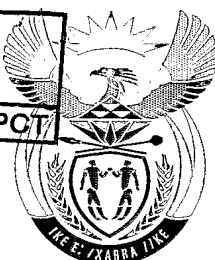


Sertifikaat
PATENTKANTOOR
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

REC'D 18 APR 2005

WIPO

PCT



IB/04/04261

Certificate
PATENT OFFICE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTEMENT VAN HANDEL
EN NYWERHEID

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

Hiermee word gesertifiseer dat
This is to certify that

The documents annexed hereto are true copies of:

Application forms P.1 and P.3, provisional specification and drawings of South African Patent Application No. 2003/4943 as originally filed in the Republic of South Africa on 25 June 2003 in the name of AVRAAMIDES, Helen for an invention entitled: "AN ALBUM-OR FILE ASSEMBLY";

AND it is further certified that South African Patent Application No. 2003/4943 was post-dated in terms of Section 38(2) of the Patents Act to 25 December 2003, and that the effective date of the application in terms of South African law, for all national and international purposes, including the International Patent Convention, is 25 December 2003.

PRIORITY DOCUMENT
SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH
RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

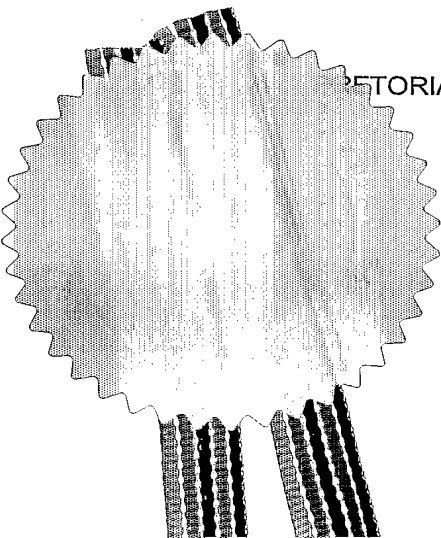
ETORIA

in die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, hierdie
in the Republic of South Africa, this

"

dag van
day of

April 2005



[Signature]
Registrateur van Patente
Registrar of Patents

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
PATENTS ACT, 1978
APPLICATION FOR A PATENT AND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT
(Section 30(1) Regulation 22)

FORM P.1
(to be lodged in duplicate)

THE GRANT OF A PATENT IS HEREBY REQUESTED BY THE UNDERMENTIONED APPLICANT
ON THE BASIS OF THE PRESENT APPLICATION FILED IN DUPLICATE

21 01 PATENT APPLICATION NO 2003/4943 A&A REF V15795 AS/JW/vd

71 FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)

AVRAAMIDES, Helen

ADDRESS(ES) OF APPLICANT(S)

481 Ontdekkers Road, Florida Hills, 1709,
Gauteng Province, South Africa

54 TITLE OF INVENTION

" AN ALBUM-OR FILE ASSEMBLY "

Only the items marked with an "X" in the blocks below are applicable.

☐ THE APPLICANT CLAIMS PRIORITY AS SET OUT ON THE ACCOMPANYING FORM P.2. The earliest priority claimed is
Country: No: Date:
☐ THE APPLICATION IS FOR A PATENT OF ADDITION TO PATENT APPLICATION NO 21 01
☐ THIS APPLICATION IS A FRESH APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 37 AND BASED ON
APPLICATION NO 21 01

THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY:

☒ A single copy of a provisional specification of 13 pages
☒ Drawings of 5 sheets
☐ Publication particulars and abstract (Form P.8 in duplicate) (for complete only)
☐ A copy of Figure of the drawings (if any) for the abstract (for complete only)
☐ An assignment of invention
☐ Certified priority document(s). (State quantity)
☐ Translation of the priority document(s)
☐ An assignment of priority rights
☐ A copy of Form P.2 and the specification of RSA Patent Application No 21 01
☒ Form P.2 in duplicate
☒ A declaration and power of attorney on Form P.3
☐ Request for ante-dating on Form P.4
☐ Request for classification on Form P.9
☐ Request for delay of acceptance on Form P.4
☐ Extra copy of informal drawings (for complete only)

74 ADDRESS FOR SERVICE: Adams & Adams, Pretoria

Dated this 25th day of June 2003

COLIN MACKENZIE
ADAMS & ADAMS
APPLICANTS PATENT ATTORNEYS

The duplicate will be returned to the applicant's address for service as
proof of lodging but is not valid unless endorsed with official stamp

OFFICIAL DATE STAMP

REGISTRAR OF PATENTS

PATENT APPLICATION NO		
21	01	2003/

A&A Ref: V15795 AS/JW/vd

LODGING DATE	
22	25 June 2003

FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)	
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71	AVRAAMIDES, Helen
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FULL NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S)	
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72	AVRAAMIDES, Helen
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EARLIEST PRIORITY CLAIMED	COUNTRY	NUMBER	DATE
	33 n/a	31 n/a	32 n/a

NOTE: The country must be indicated by its International Abbreviation - see schedule 4 of the Regulations

TITLE OF INVENTION	
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54	" AN ALBUM-OR FILE ASSEMBLY "
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* I/We **Helen Avraamides,**

hereby declare that :-

1. I am the applicant mentioned above;

** 2. ~~I/we have been authorized by the applicant(s) to make this declaration and have knowledge of the facts herein stated in the capacity of~~ of the applicant(s);

*** 3. the inventor of the abovementioned invention is the person named above;

4. to the best of my/our knowledge and belief, if a patent is granted on the application, there will be no lawful ground for the revocation of the patent;

**** 5. ~~this is a convention application and the earliest application from which priority is claimed as set out above is the first application in a convention country in respect of the invention claimed in any of the claims; and~~

6. the partners and qualified staff of the firm of **ADAMS & ADAMS**, patent attorneys, are authorised, jointly and severally, with powers of substitution and revocation, to represent the applicant(s) in this application and to be the address for service of the applicant(s) while the application is pending and after a patent has been granted on the application.

SIGNED THIS 13th DAY OF MAY 2003



Full Names: **HELEN AVRAAMIDES**

(no legalization necessary)

ADAMS & ADAMS
PATENT ATTORNEYS
PRETORIA

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Patents Act, 1978

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

(Section 30 (1) - Regulation 27)

21	01	OFFICIAL APPLICATION NO
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22	LODGING DATE
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25 June 2003

71	FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)
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AVRAAMIDES, Helen

72	FULL NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S)
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AVRAAMIDES, Helen

54	TITLE OF INVENTION
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" AN ALBUM-OR FILE ASSEMBLY "

THIS INVENTION relates to an album- or file assembly. It more particularly relates to an album- or file assembly for keeping personal records such as pictures, photographs, certificates, general or ceremonial documents, and the like. It relates also to a modular sub-assembly for such album- or file assembly, for receiving such personal records.

In accordance with one aspect of the invention there is provided an album- or file assembly for keeping of personal records, which assembly includes:

at least one modular sub-assembly in the form of a sleeve having opposed operatively front and rear walls respectively providing operatively front and rear major faces, the walls being secured together at or adjacent their peripheries to define therebetween an envelope within which personal records are receivable;

at least one photograph display device for accommodating at least one photograph; and

a binder within which each sleeve and device are received, the binder having securing means for removably securing each sleeve and each device in place therein.

The envelope of each sleeve may be expansible for receiving a relatively large number of documentary records or relatively thick documentary records arranged in sequence. Each envelope may have a peripheral opening and the front and rear walls defining each envelope may be secured together by means

of one or more peripheral walls which are folded in concertina fashion for permitting reversible expansion of the envelope in accordance with the number or thickness of records received.

Advantageously, the peripheral wall or walls of each sleeve are integrally formed with one or both of the front or rear walls.

The assembly may further include a protective cover within which the binder is received for protecting it. The protective cover may be in the form of a box-shaped sheath of relatively sturdy scratch - or scuff-resistant construction.

The assembly may include a plurality of sleeves and a plurality of photograph display devices alternating with the sleeves, for example, by being interleaved therebetween.

In one embodiment, each photograph display device may be in the form of a transparent sheet having opposed operatively front and rear faces, and may include mounting formations in the form of a plurality of cardboard or transparent pockets for receiving photographs, the pockets being provided on both faces of each sheet.

In another embodiment, each photograph display device may be in the form of a transparent envelope within which photographs are receivable.

Advantageously, the photographs are mounted on one or both sides of opaque sheets, and each sheet is then received within one envelope.

Naturally, the assembly may include both the above described embodiments of photograph display devices.

The binder may include a front cover, a rear cover opposite the front cover, and a spine interconnecting the front cover and the rear cover, the binder being foldable in book fashion along fold lines provided at the spine and between the respective covers, with the sleeves and the photograph display devices being received within the binder between its covers. The front cover, the rear cover, and the spine may all be planar rectangular boards of a material such as, for example, cardboard. In some embodiments, the front cover, the rear cover, and the spine may be integrally connected so that the binder is of unitary construction, in which case the fold lines may, for example, be provided by grooves or lines of weakness extending along at least one side edge of the spine.

The securing means may be in the form of a plurality of generally ring shaped clasps fast with and spaced along either one of the spine or the rear cover of the binder, or a suitably arranged spiral of coils. When the securing means is in the form of clasps, both the sleeves and the photograph display devices may provide holes or openings adjacent edges thereof for receiving the clasps, the holes or openings, naturally, being sized and spaced in similar fashion to the clasps.

Areas of the sleeves and the photograph display devices surrounding the holes or openings may be reinforced to inhibit initiation or propagation of tears in these areas.

The front wall of each sleeve may be slightly narrower than its rear wall to permit the holes or openings through the sleeves to extend through their rear walls only.

The rear walls of the sleeves, and the photograph display devices, may have essentially the same surface areas, which may be slightly smaller than those of the front cover and the rear cover of the binder so that the covers overhang the sleeves and photograph display devices.

The operatively rear face of the rear wall of each of the sleeves may provide writing space for receiving written information associated with records kept in the adjacent sleeve or associated with photographs accommodated by the photograph display devices between said adjacent sleeves, so that when the binder is open and laid flat, the exposed rear face of the sleeve located above the front cover of the binder displays information associated with the records kept in its neighboring sleeve located above the rear cover, and with the photographs accommodated by photograph display device or devices between said sleeves.

The operatively front face of the front wall of each sleeve may provide

mounting space for mounting of photographs or pictures. In some embodiments, said front faces may furthermore provide mounting formations for mounting the photographs or pictures.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention there is provided a modular sub-assembly, removably receivable in a binder, for receiving personal records, the sub-assembly being as hereinbefore described.

The invention is now described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 shows, in three-dimensional view, part of an album assembly in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 shows, in three-dimensional view, a modular sub-assembly, also in accordance with the invention, forming part of the album assembly in accordance with the invention;

Figure 3 shows, in three-dimensional view, a photograph display device forming part of the album assembly in accordance with the invention;

Figure 4 shows, in three-dimensional view, a further embodiment of a photograph display device forming part of the album assembly in accordance with the invention; and

Figure 5 shows, in three-dimensional view, a protective cover forming part

of an album assembly in accordance with the invention, with a binder also forming part of the album assembly in accordance with the invention received therein.

With reference to Figure 1 of the drawings, part of an album assembly in accordance with the invention is generally indicated by reference numeral 10.

The album assembly part 10 includes fourteen modular sub-assemblies, also in accordance with the invention, in the form of sleeves 12 (one of which is shown in Figure 2) for receiving personal records such as pictures, photographs, certificates, general or ceremonial documents, and the like. The album assembly part 10 includes also thirteen photograph display devices for accommodating photographs. The album assembly part 10 of Figure 1 includes one embodiment of the photograph display devices, the devices being in the form of transparent sheets 14 (one of which is shown in Figure 3) providing mounting formations generally indicated by reference numeral 15 for mounting photographs thereon.

Figure 4 shows a variant embodiment of a photograph display device in the form of a transparent envelope 17. Naturally, the album assembly 10 may include both the transparent sheets 14 and the transparent envelopes 17.

The album assembly 10 further includes a binder 16 (Figures 1 and 4) in which the sleeves 12 and the transparent sheets 14 and/or the transparent envelopes 17 are received. The binder 16 has securing means in the form of a

series of hoops or clasps 18 for removably securing the sleeves 12 and the transparent sheets 14 in place therein.

The album assembly 10 yet further includes a protective cover 20 (Figure 4) in the form of a box-shaped sheath of relatively sturdy scratch- or scuff-resistant construction.

Referring now in particular to Figure 2, each sleeve 12 has opposed operatively front and rear walls, respectively being indicated by reference numerals 22 and 24, each of which provides an operatively front and an operatively rear major face. The front and rear major faces of the rear wall 24 are respectively indicated by reference numerals 26 and 28, the front major face of the front wall 22 being indicated by reference numeral 30. The front wall 22 and the rear wall 24 are secured together adjacent their peripheries by means of peripheral walls in the form of side walls 32 and 36 and by a bottom wall 34 (Figure 1), to define therebetween an envelope 38 having a peripheral opening 40 at its top. The personal records are thus receivable within the envelope 38. Each of the peripheral walls 32, 34, 36 is folded so that the envelope is expansible and retractable in concertina fashion, for permitting reversible expansion of the envelope 38 in accordance with the number or thickness of records received therein.

The rear wall 24 of the sleeve 12 is in the form of a planar rectangular sheet of relatively sturdy cardboard. The front wall 22 of the sleeve 12 is of a

similar construction and, in this embodiment, the folded peripheral walls 32, 34, 36 are integrally formed with the front wall 22. The front wall 22 is spaced operatively outwardly from an operatively inner edge 42 of the rear wall 24, and is secured to the rear wall 24 by means of flaps 52, 54 fast with the side walls 32, 36, and a flap (not visible) fast with the bottom wall 34. The flaps 52, 54 and the flap which is not visible are thus extensions of the peripheral walls 32, 36, 34.

The front wall 22 has a semi-circular indentation 44 in an operatively top edge thereof, to facilitate removal of records received in the envelope 38, from the envelope 38. The front face 30 of the front wall 22, provides mounting space for mounting pictures or photographs 46, 48 (shown in broken lines) thereon. In this embodiment, the photographs 46, 48 are adhesively mounted to the front face 30. In some embodiments, not shown, the front face 30 may provide mounting formations for mounting the photographs 46, 48.

The sleeve 12 further includes, spaced slightly operatively outwardly from the inner edge 42 of the rear wall 24, four spaced and aligned apertures 50, for receiving the clasps 18 when the sleeve 12 is received within the binder 16. Areas of the rear wall 24 surrounding the apertures 50 are reinforced to inhibit initiation or propagation of tears in these areas.

The sleeves 12 can, if desired, be of different colours or be provided with different decorative surface patterns. Likewise, some of the sleeves 12 may,

if desired, be of like colour or be provided with like patterns.

Referring now in particular to Figure 3, the transparent sheet 14 is rectangular, and of a size substantially equal to that of the sleeve 12. The sheet 14 provides opposed operatively front and rear faces, the front face only being visible and indicated by reference numeral 56. The mounting formations 15 are in the form of transparent pockets 60 provided on both the front face 56 and the rear face of the sheet 14. In this embodiment, each face of the sheet 14 is provided with five pockets 60. In other embodiments, not shown, each of these faces may be provided with any desired number of pockets. The pockets 60 are secured at their peripheries to the front face 56 and the rear face of the sheet 14 and provide peripheral openings (not visible) via which pictures or photographs can be inserted into these pockets 60.

The sheet 14 further includes four apertures 62 arranged on the sleeve 14 in similar fashion to the apertures 50 on the sleeve 12, likewise for receiving the clasps 18 when the sheets 14 are received within the binder 16. Here also, areas of the sheet 14 surrounding the apertures 62 are reinforced to inhibit initiation or propagation of tears in these areas.

With reference to Figure 4, the transparent envelopes 17 resembles the transparent sheet 14 and, accordingly, unless otherwise indicated, like reference numerals are used to indicate like parts or features. The transparent

envelope 17 is rectangular, and of a size substantially equal to that of the sleeve 12 and the sheet 14. The envelope 17 provides an open-topped pocket 86 defined between two transparent sheets, only a front one of which is visible and is indicated by reference numeral 88, within which photographs are receivable. The envelope 17 further includes four apertures 62 arranged on the envelope 17 in similar fashion to the apertures 62, of the sheet 14, likewise for receiving the clasps 18 when the envelopes 17 are received within the binder 16. Here also, areas of the envelope 17 surrounding the apertures 62 are reinforced to inhibit initiation or propagation of tears in these areas.

In the embodiment of the envelope 17 shown in Figure 4, photographs (not shown) received within the pocket 86 are mounted on an opaque sheet, in this embodiment a cardboard sheet 90 (shown in broken lines), with the cardboard sheet 90 then being received within the pocket 86. When a plurality of envelopes 17 are received within the binder 16, the various cardboard sheets 90 may be of different colours. Likewise, some of the cardboard sheets 90 may be of like colour.

With particular reference now to Figure 1, the binder 16 includes a front cover 64 and a rear cover 66, the covers 64, 66 being of the same size and shape and interconnected by a spine 68. The front cover 64, the rear cover 66 and the spine 68 are all in the form of rectangular relatively thick cardboard sheets. The spine 68 is defined between the front cover and the rear cover by means of fold lines 70, 72 extending along operative inner edges of the front cover 64 and

of the rear cover 66. In this embodiment, the front cover 64, the rear cover 66, and the spine 68 are of separate cardboard sheets connected together along the respective fold lines 70, 72. In other embodiments (not shown), however, the front cover 64, the rear cover 66, and the spine 68 may be of unitary construction, in which case the fold lines 70, 72, enabling folding of the binder in book fashion, are provided by grooves or lines of weakness; and the covers 64, 66 and spine 68 can instead be of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or any other suitable plastics material.

Referring now to Figure 5 of the drawings, the protective cover 20 includes opposed major walls 74, 76 connected together by means of side walls 78, 80 and a rear wall which is not visible, and provides a mouth opening 79. The major faces 74, 76 are provided, at their edges 81, 83 defining the mouth opening 79, with semi-circular recesses 82, 84 facilitating removal of the binder 16 (shown in broken lines in Figure 5) from the protective cover 20.

As can be seen in Figure 1, the transparent sheets 14 are interleaved between the sleeves 12. Likewise, the envelopes 17 may, instead of or in addition to the sheets 14, be interleaved between the sleeves 12. The operatively rear faces 28 of the rear walls 24 of the sleeves 12 provide writing space for receiving information associated with personal records received in the pocket 38 of a neighboring sleeve 12 and pictures received in the pockets 60 of a neighboring transparent sheet 14 and/or in the pockets 86 of the envelopes 17. Thus, in use, when the binder 16 is laid flat (as shown in Figure 1), information received on the

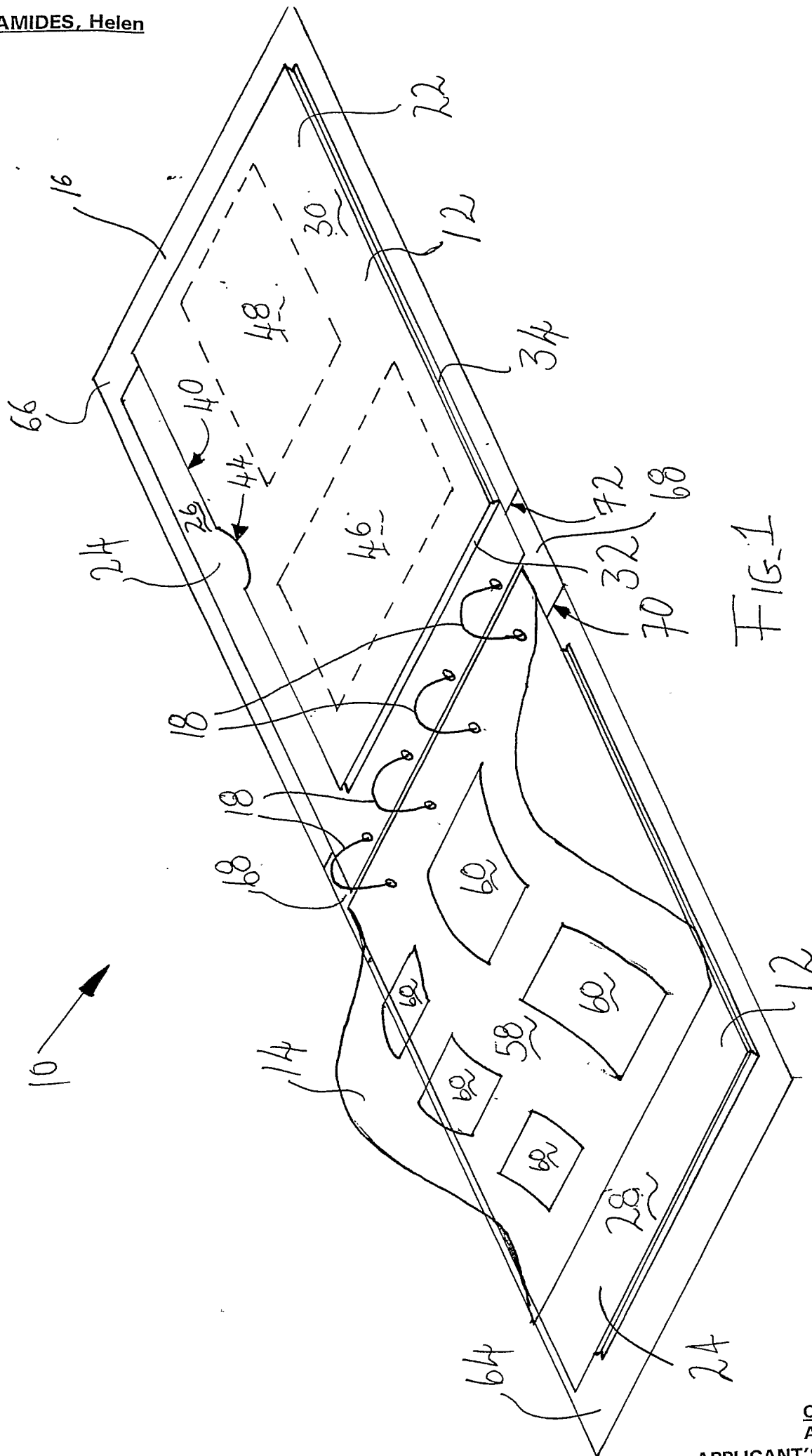
rear face 28 of one sleeve 12 located above the front cover 64 is associated with personal records received in the neighboring sleeve 12 located above the rear cover 66 and associated with the photographs received in the pockets 60 of the transparent sheet 14 and/or in the pocket 86 of the envelope 17 between such sleeves 12.

In the embodiment shown, the album assembly 10 includes fourteen sleeves 12 and thirteen sheets 14 interleaved between the sheets 12. It is, however, to be appreciated that additional sleeves 12 and/or additional sheets 14 may be added to the assembly 10. As hereinbefore mentioned the assembly 10 may, instead of or in addition to the sheets 14, include any desired number of envelopes 17. In the illustrated example, the album has a size of approximately A3, but can naturally be of other sizes, as desired.

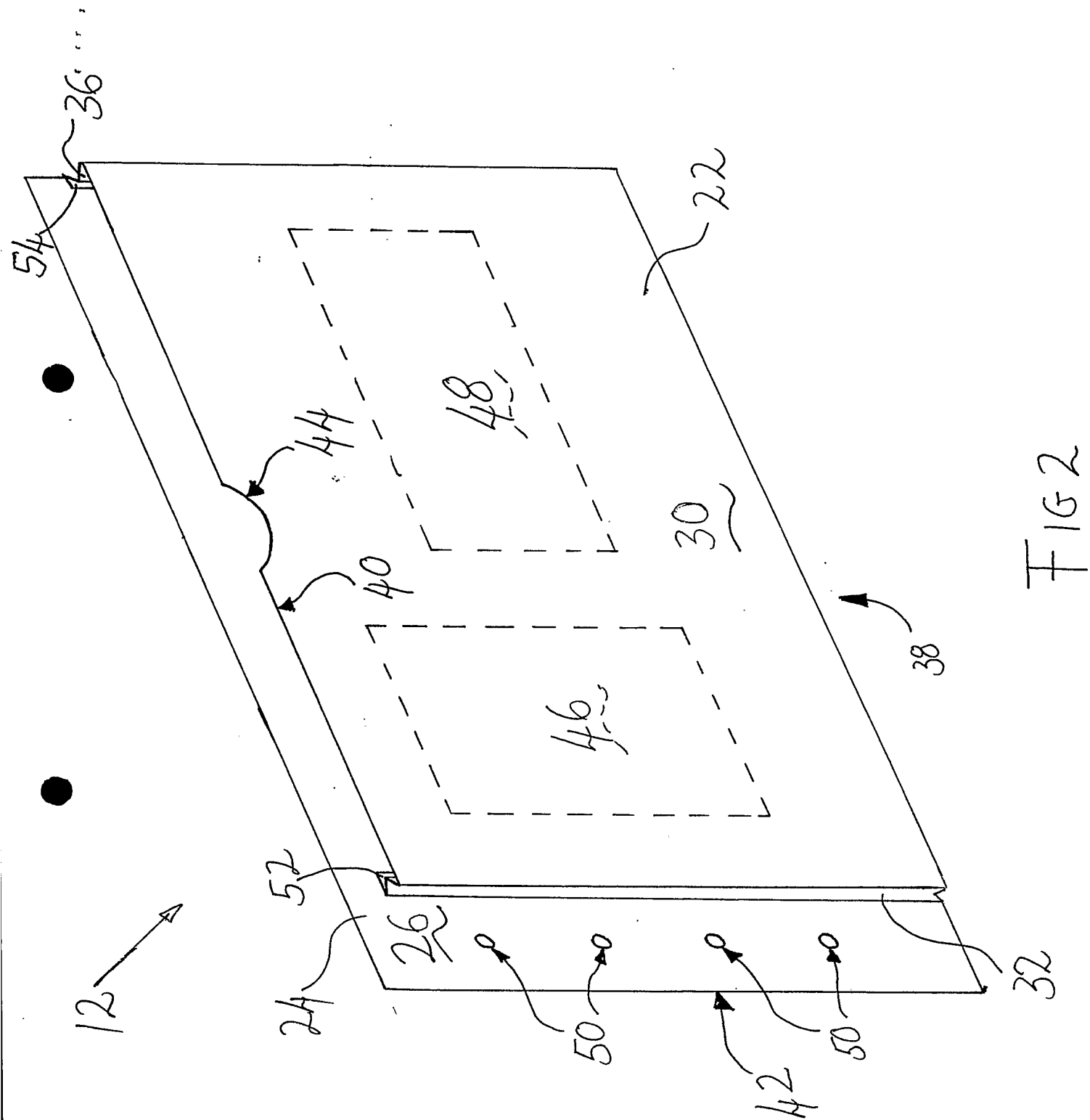
It is expected that an album assembly in accordance with this invention will particularly advantageously be applicable for keeping personal records of scholars or pre-schoolers. Each sleeve 12 and its associated sheet 14 and/or envelope 17 may thus, for example, receive personal records pertaining to a particular school year or to a particular pre-school year.

Dated this **25th** day of **JUNE 2003**.

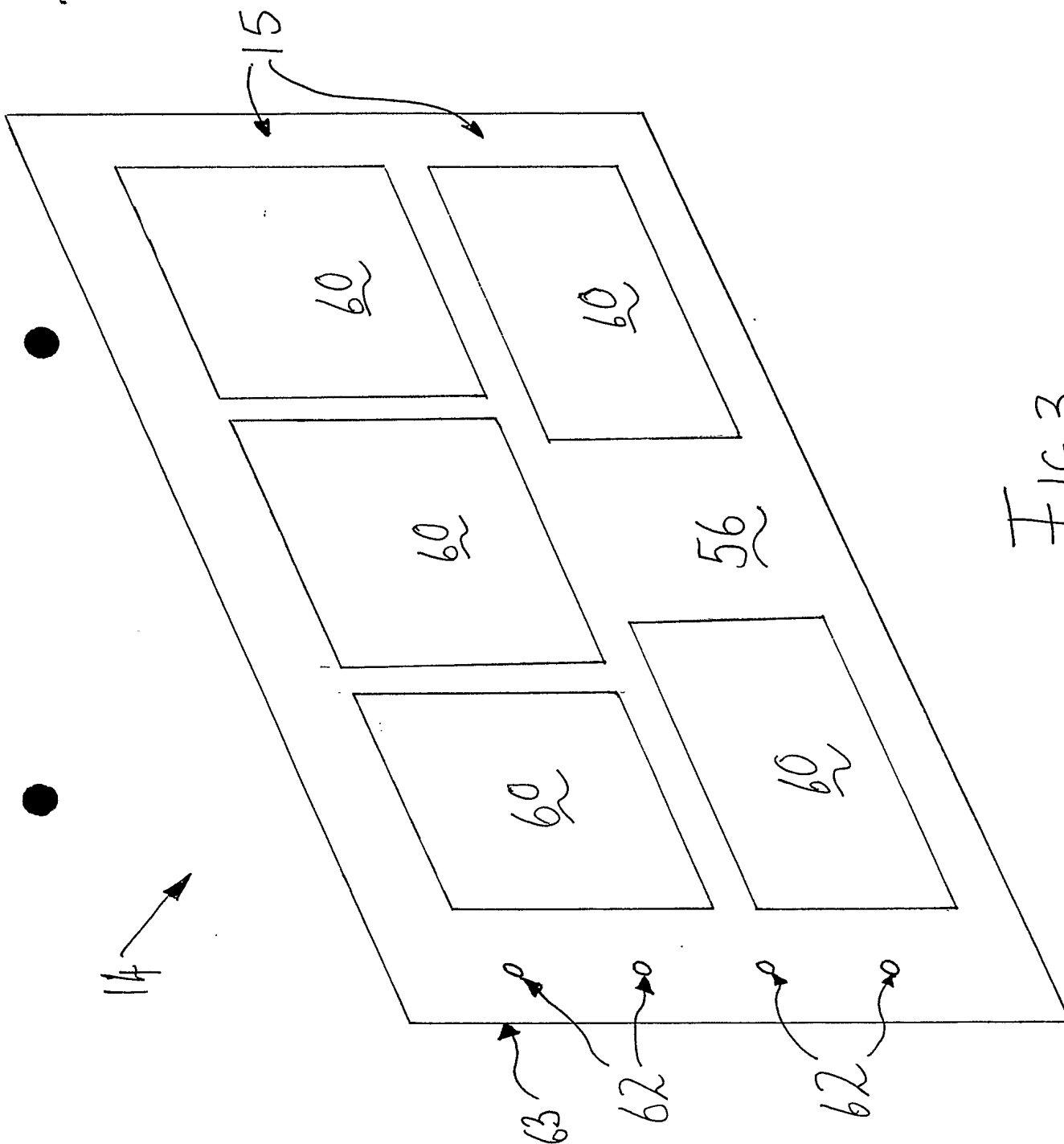
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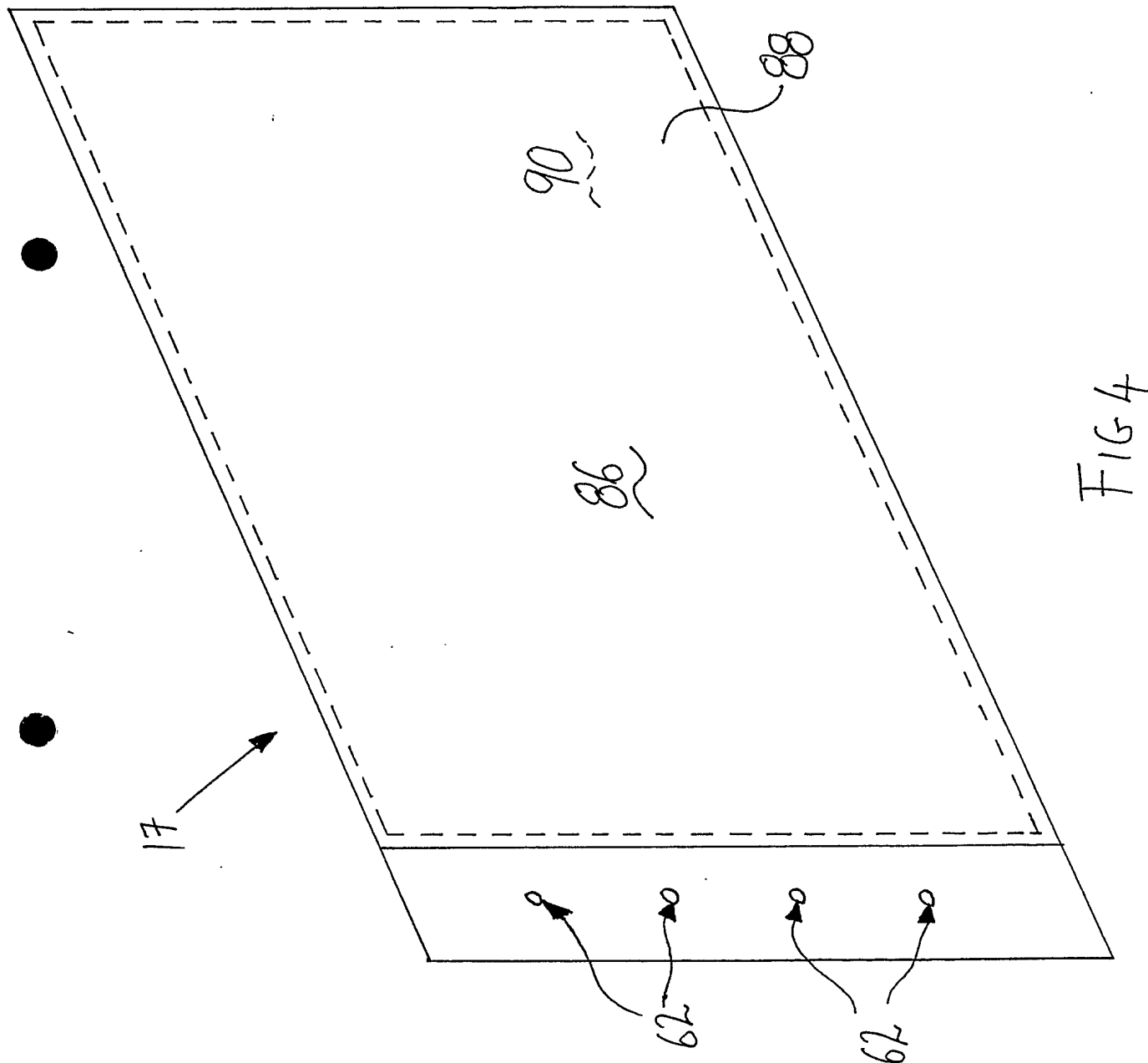
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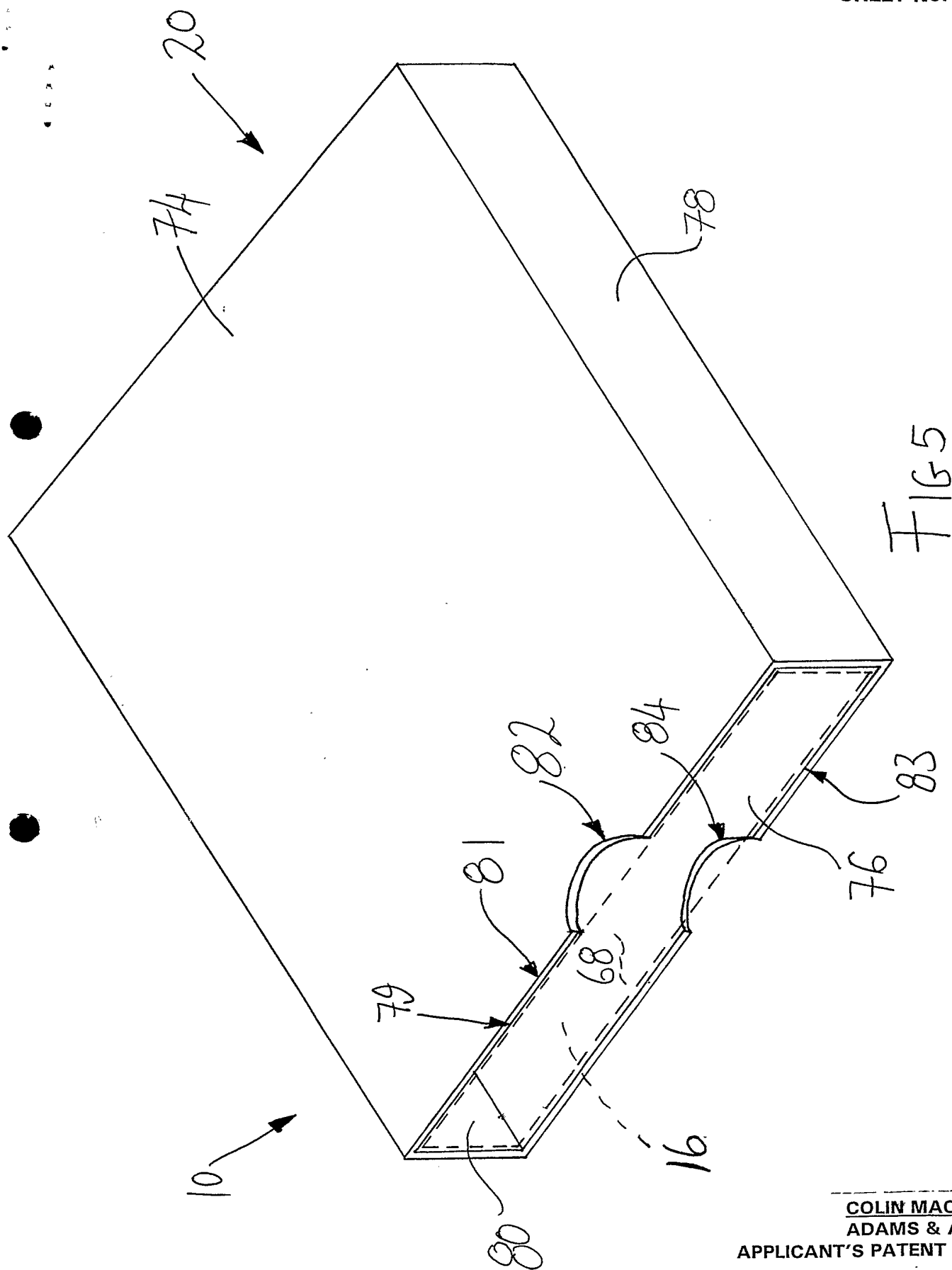


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